

BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2002

VOL. 80 NO. 1



EVENING SOCIALS

Evening socials are usually held in the ANZA club, upstairs room (corner of 8th Ave. and Ontario, Vancouver) starting at 7:30 p.m. Please bring your own cups to socials if you wish to drink the free tea or coffee provided.

Tuesday, 8 January - Entertainment will be a slide show by Chris Cooper on Devon Island - land of the ice bear. **This social will be held at the WISE Club, 1882 Adanac St., Vancouver, not the ANZA club**

Tuesday, 12 February - Entertainment will be a slide show by Johan Stroman on rambling in South America.

Winter in North Creek.



Some ice bears.



HONORARY PRESIDENTS - Esther and Martin Kafer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT -	DAVE HUGHES	604-980-6484	CABIN / TRAILS -	IAN HOPPER	604-929-3720
PAST-PRESIDENT -	ANDERS OUROM	604-228-1798	CONSERVATION -	BRIAN WOOD	604-222-1541
VICE-PRESIDENT -	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462		MONICA BITTEL	604-983-3097
SECRETARY -	MIRELLA LIOCE	604-736-5079	SUMMER CAMP -	DAVID SCANLON	604-464-3730
TREASURER -	MARCIA COLLIER	604-987-5245	WEBMASTER -	MICHAEL McCRAE	604-326-0156
MEMBERSHIP/MAILING -	MIKE PEEL	604-268-9502	EDITOR -	MICHAEL FELLER	604-270-4050
	TAMMIE SIBBALD				
SOCIALS -	DARRYL MALBY	604-709-0051	EQUIPMENT -	PAUL KUBIK	604-876-0764
	DONNA BAILIE	604-572-5051	SAFETY EQUIPMENT -		
CLIMBING -	MARGARET HANSON	604-736-6397		KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462
	KIT GRIFFIN	604-736-8462	LIBRARY -	GEORGE HAMILTON	604-988-1888
	DAVE MORRISS	604-732-9896			

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The **BC MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER** is an official publication of the B.C. Mountaineering Club and is published 10 times per year (every month except July and September).

Submissions - of any written, drawn, or photographic material relevant to the B.C. Mountaineering Club are welcome. If possible, submissions should be sent to the editor by email or on a diskette. Deadline for submissions is the first Tuesday of the month preceding the publication month. Send submissions to Michael Feller (email - feller@interchg.ubc.ca, ph. 270-4050).

Editorial policy - All submitted material relevant to the B.C. Mountaineering Club will be published unless the club executive decides otherwise. Submitted material may be edited for clarity or brevity.

Opinions and comments expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the B.C. Mountaineering Club.

SCHEDULED TRIPS

Participation on club trips is open to any person with adequate skills and experience, subject to the approval of the trip organizer. All non-member participants must sign a disclosure and waiver form relieving the club and all other participants on the trip from any liability. A trip organizer is not a certified guide. The function of the organizer is to organize the trip, ensure that it gets underway, know the access to the area, and know a route or routes on the climb. It is expected that each person on a club trip has the necessary skills, experience, fitness, and equipment. The organizer may specify certain equipment mandatory for participation in a trip. Any person who attempts to participate in a club trip without such mandatory equipment, may be requested to withdraw from the trip. The club has EPIRBs, avalanche transceivers and snow shovels available for hire. These may be obtained by contacting Kit Griffin at 604-736-8462 prior to the Thursday before the weekend the transceivers are wanted. Each person on a club trip is responsible for his or her own safety and for checking the equipment used. Please be considerate and call the trip organizer by Thursday evening for weekend trips, and by Friday for Sunday trips.

If you are given a ride, please remember to pay the driver your portion of the car costs.

January: every Wednesday: Cypress ski area Practise and enjoy your skiing.	A1	ORGANIZER Dave Morriss	604-732-9896
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January 5: Hat Pass Skiing above Lions Bay.	B3-4	Paul Kubik	604-876-0764
January 5-6: Golden Ears (snowshoe) Hiking in the Lower Fraser valley area.	C2/1706 m	Mathieu Dorion	604-773-2073
January 5-6: Ice climbing at Lillooet The cold and vertical in the sunny interior.	A5	Russ March	604-961-2904
January 6: Hollyburn Mtn. Easy skiing in Vancouver's north shore mountains.	A2/1324 m	Peter Gumplinger	604-733-8264
January 6: Diamond Head Easy skiing in Garibaldi park.	B2	Monika Bittel	604-983-3097
January 6: Mt. Strachan or Hollyburn Mtn. (snowshoe) Hiking in Vancouver's north shore mountains.	A1/1454 m	Adam Brosgall	604-321-2326
January 12-13: Manning park (snowshoe) Easy snowshoeing.	B-C2	Karen Backmann	604-602-9897
January 12-13: Ice climbing at Lillooet More cold and vertical in the sunny interior.	A5	Miles Quesnel	604-460-1466
January 12-13: Cayoosh Mtn. Skiing off the Duffey Lake road.	B3/2590 m	Tom Kuczmierowski	604-585-6835
January 13: Singing Pass Skiing up the trail then out via the musical bumps.	B2	Nana Zolbrod	604-737-9889
January 13: Mystery trip Skiing somewhere. Contact the organizer for more information.	B2-3	Anders Ourom	604-228-1798
January 19: Howe Sound Crest trail Skiing above Howe Sound.	B3	Jos van der Burg	604-463-7582
January 19: Fat Dog Ck. Easy skiing in Manning Park.	A1-2	Len Soet	604-298-5683
January 19: Cloudburst Mtn. Stretching the daylight hours on the Squamish-Cheakamus divide.	C3/1870 m	Cynthia Neale	604-264-7466
January 26: Magnesia Meadows Skiing above Howe Sound.	B3	Ian McGillivray and Jane Weller	604-988-3618
January 26: Hatchethead Mtn. East Skiing at the western edge of Manning Park.	B3/1948 m	Chris Trautman	604-873-4552
January 27: Needle Pk. Skiing in the Coquihalla area.	B2-3(4)/2075 m	Brian Gavin	604-929-0675
January 27: Frosty Mtn. Stretching the daylight hours in Manning Park.	C2-3/2423 m	Brian Vezina	604-731-7699
January 27: Zoa Pk. Easy skiing in the Coquihalla area. Joint trip with the ACC.	A2/1860 m	Carol MacMillan	604-879-2947
February: every Wednesday: Cypress ski area More practising and enjoying your skiing.	A1	Dave Morriss	604-732-9896
February 2-3: Tetrahedron area Skiing on the Sechelt Peninsula.	B3	Michael Feller	604-270-4050
February 2-3: Ice climbing at Lillooet Yet more cold and vertical in the sunny interior.	A5	Russ March	604-961-2904
February 3: Mt. Alpen Skiing east of Squamish in the Mamquam valley area.	B2/1703 m	Mike Peel	604-444-4068

February 9: Mt. Rohr Extended skiing off the Duffey Lake road.	C2-3	Cynthia Neale	604-264-7466
February 9-10: Vantage Pk. Skiing off the Duffey Lake road.	B3/2230 m	Tom Kuczmierowski	604-588-6835
February 9-10: Overlord Mtn. Extended skiing beyond Singing Pass in Garibaldi Park.	C3/2634 m	Rhys Gibb	604-294-3792
February 9-10: Cayoosh Mtn. area More skiing off the Duffey Lake road.	B3	Jason Komaromi	604-734-0256
February 9-10: Ice climbing at Lillooet More cold and vertical at the most visited destination this winter.	B5	Miles Quesnel	604-460-1466
February 10: Mt. Crickmer Skiing in the Lower Fraser valley area.	B-C2/1340 m	Reinhard Fabische	604-462-9638

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

The club welcomes the following new associate members:

Bill Andrews, Cathie Aspden, Sandra Barsky, Reinaldo Boter, Douglas Button, Anthony Comazzetto, Harvey Dueck, Samantha Elvin, Ruth Featherstone, Bryan Forrest, David Gillies, Peter Hansen, Jenny Hamilton Harding, James Hickling, Sirku Hondorf, Andy Johnson, Neil Lang, Tim Langille, Imelda Malinab, Kathy McKay, Stefan Reinker, Dave Strajt, Owen Sturgess, Danuta Tomaszewska.

What club members are doing - The Rucksack.

The club congratulates **Brenda Lomax** and **Brian Kuchinka** on the recent birth of their daughter.



Club member John and Annette at a recent great event.

WINTER COURSES

Winter Mountaineering course

Objectives: To develop skills, knowledge, and confidence to safely participate in overnight ski trips.

For Whom: Strong downhill or proficient back-country skiers.

Prerequisites: Open to all BCBC members in good physical health and fitness who are able to ski with an overnight (15 kg) pack.

Course topics: Clothing and equipment, trip planning, snow camping and snow shelters;

route and snowpack evaluation; avalanche awareness, transceiver use and self-rescue; winter mountain travel and weather. This course does not cover glacier travel or first aid.

Dates (4 weekends):

Week 1: Feb. 2/3, Week 2: Feb. 9/10, Week 3: Feb. 23/24, Week 4: Mar 2/3

Registration: The course is limited to 10 participants, and the cost is \$200.

To register contact Greg Hamilton at - hamilton_greg@hotmail.com or Tel: 604-984-6800.

Winter Leadership Skills Course (February)

A professional ski guide will be teaching a winter leadership skills course for BCMC members. The course will be limited to 8 active BCMC members, with priority given to members who are willing to organize club trips. The course will cost approximately \$150 and will include one Thursday evening of instruction and two day trips in the field.

Course instruction will be split between (1) soft skills and (2) hard skills. The soft skills portion of the course will include topics such as leadership techniques involving group management, risk management, communication, decision making and other such skills. The hard skills component will focus on avalanche safety techniques involving

terrain evaluation, snowpack structure, weather, safe routefinding and rescue techniques, and recognizing and avoiding avalanche hazards.

For registration and more information contact Kit Griffin. E-mail: kitgriffin@telus.net or Tel: 604-736-8462.

Wilderness First Aid Course

St. John's will provide a special instructor for a wilderness first aid course for club members. The course will involve a Wednesday lecture followed by a weekend of practice. Possible dates are 9, 12, 13 January, or 16, 19, 20 January.

For further information - contact David Hughes at 604-980-6484.

BCMC CLUB NEWS

Articles wanted for the 2002 BC Mountaineer

It's that time of year again, when you have time to sit down and write that article on a more interesting,

different, exotic, or intrepid trip for next year's B.C. Mountaineer. Articles plus photos or figures are wanted by 31 January.

MORE REPORTS FROM THE 2001 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CLIMBING REPORT – by Margaret Hanson

2001/2000 saw a full schedule of day and weekend trips, summer and winter camps and a full roster of club courses.

All the courses were successful and most were sold out. Thanks to all the following people for making them happen: Nicole Hoskin for acting as the course administrator; Trevor Lumley, Darren Quist, Brian Wood and Colin Woodridge for organizing the Winter Ski Course; Kit Griffin for organizing both the Intro to Rock Climbing and Rock Refresher courses. The Intermediate Rock Climbing course was organized by Anders Ourom. And finally, big thanks to Miles Quesnel for taking on the job of organizing the Introduction to Mountaineering course and to his

assistants Doug Hulme and Nick Ranicar. This was Miles' first time organizing a club course. Thanks as well to the many people who assisted with all the courses.

Kit Griffin organized Indoor Rock Climbing Night at Cliffhanger with great success. I organized the Outdoor Rock Climbing Night at Squamish during the summer and I owe huge thanks to Sheila Broughton who filled up for me when I was out of town for most of June and July.

Pat Crean organized a very snowy spring ski camp on the Bridge Glacier, David Hughes organized the summer climbing camp at Ape Lake near Bella Coola and Dave Scanlon organized the summer mountaineering camp in the Bendor Range.

I would like to thank Jean Lederer for serving as trip statistician over the last year and for putting together the trip statistics below.

Finally, many thanks to everyone who organized trips over the last year and to the 'saints and angels' for putting a fantastic year of hiking, climbing and skiing together (both for last year and the new winter/spring schedule): Michele Davidson, Wendy Dorn, Evelyn Feller, Liz Grant, Kit Griffin, Tamara

Grottker, Peter Gumplinger, Greg Hamilton, Nicole Hoskin, Jean Lederer, Mirrela Lioce, Wendy and Dave Morriss, Alice Obermajer, Tammie Sibbald, Jos van der Burg, Karne Backmann, Kit Griffin, Dale Maffei, Kim Martin, Kenji Narumi, Jack Pals, Mike Peel, Nick Vipond, JP Shason, Ian Hopper, Jack Bryceland, Pam Krannitz, Steve Tate, Marian Jans, Audrey Roburn, Paulette Caille and Nancy-Anne Rose.

Winter 2000/2001	Day	Weekend	Long	Longer	Totals	% of Total
(December to April)			Weekend	Trips		
Go	22	17	2	3	44	53%
No-Go	11	18	1	0	30	36%
Partial Success	5	4	0	0	9	11%
Trip Totals	38	39	3	3	83	
Members	132	119	17	32	300	76%
Non-Members	55	25	4	12	96	24%
Participant Totals	187	144	21	44	396	

Summer 2001	Day	Weekend	Long	Longer	Totals	% of Total
(May to November)			Weekend	Trips		
Go	23	21	8	3	55	56%
No-Go	19	17	1	0	37	37%
Partial Success	5	1	0	1	7	7%
Trip Totals	47	39	9	4	99	
Members	138	143	51	58	390	73%
Non-Members	96	38	13	0	147	27%
Participant Totals	234	181	64	58	537	

CAMP CHAIR'S REPORT - by David Scanlon

My first time doing this, so you can imagine my surprises at 32 calls for the Bendor Range summer camp. After cancellations, 27 came on the camp. We hiked much, summitting all peaks close to camp and some farther away. The weather was very hot - 30 degrees on one day, but not quite enough to swim in the lake. A fine time was had by all, exploring the area's peaks, lakes, valleys, and old mining sites. Interest in the area remains high, so we'll maybe go back next year. A more complete report will appear in this year's B.C. Mountaineer.

EDITOR'S REPORT - by Michael Feller

During the last year our usual 10 newsletters, containing 112 pages, were produced. The space devoted to trip reports has continued to increase - to its highest level in at least 10 years. During the year the newsletter was reformatted so that it can be made available electronically. Since May 2001, it has contained significantly more photographs and artwork (primarily sketches by Paul Binkert) than previously. Unfortunately, its production cost has also increased, con

trary to the assertions of the computer crowd. All contributors to the newsletter deserve thanks, particularly Nikki Ducharme, Russel Earnshaw, Paul Kubik, Anders Ourom, Mike Peel, David Scanlon, Jos van der Burg, and Colin Wooldridge.

Susan Ratson must be thanked for the typing of the newsletter. Evelyn Feller and members of the BCMC executive must also be thanked for their much appreciated assistance in stuffing newsletters into envelopes.

Organization of the club archives and scanning of all our photos (which occupy 24 CD's!) was completed during the year. Carrie Stevenson must be sincerely thanked for her enthusiastic work on the archives. In the last 6 months we have had no less than 6 requests to access the archives - more than in the previous 20 years!

Your editor is also producing an index for all materials published by the club. Due to the huge volume of material, this index will be produced in 2 or 3 volumes. It is hoped to produce the first volume this coming winter.

Newsletter Total Number of pages (%)

	<u>2000/01</u>	<u>1999/00</u>	<u>1998/99</u>	<u>1997/98</u>	<u>1996/97</u>	<u>1995/96</u>	<u>1994/95</u>	<u>1993/94</u>	<u>1992/93</u>
Trip ads	11.5 (10)	15 (14)	11.5 (10)	12.5 (15)	12.5 (10)	16.5 (15)	11.5 (10)	16.5 (12)	27 (25)
Trip reports	30.5 (27)	28.5 (28)	24 (10)	17.5 (20)	16.5 (13)	17 (16)	15.5 (14)	27 (20)	18.5 (17)
Club news	40 (36)	26 (25)	41 (34)	33 (38)	36 (28)	39.5 (37)	41 (37)	50 (37)	23.5 (22)
Other news	24 (22)	28.5 (28)	39 (33)	19 (22)	35.5 (28)	19.5 (18)	25.5 (23)	29 (22)	34.5 (32)
Features	0 (0)	3.5 (3)	0 (0)	2.5 (3)	15.5 (12)	10.5 (10)	0 (0)	3 (2)	1 (1)
Equipment/ Technique	0.5 (0)	2 (2)	4 (3)	0 (0)	4 (3)	1 (1)	0 (0)	1.5 (1)	1 (1)
Letters/ Reports	5.5 (5)	0 (0)	0.5 (0)	0.5 (1)	7.5 (6)	3.5 (3)	14 (13)	4 (3)	1.5 (2)
Book reviews	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	3 (2)	0 (0)
Ads	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2.5 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Cartoons	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0.5 (0)	0 (0)
Total Pages	112	103.5	120	86	127.5	107.5	111	134.5	107

NEWS

Red Tit hut replacement

The Vancouver section of the ACC wants to replace the Red Tit hut, in the Dione-Serratus saddle in the Tantalus Range, with a new Jim Haberl Memorial hut.

Paul Kubik recently contacted the club with some concerns over the new hut. Paul writes -

"The latest information I have is that the committee is now considering a hut for 20 people, who I am assuming will mostly be fly-in/out visitors. The area has never attracted large numbers willing to cross the river by canoe and slog all the way up on foot. Nor for that matter, are there many people climbing up from a base at the Tantalus Hut on Lake Lovelywater. So my concern is about the size of the hut.

A hut capable of sleeping 20 is targeted primarily for fly in visitors (and likely out as well). As one of the main concerns with BCMC members is about the noise from aircraft and its impact on the wilderness in Tantalus Provincial Park, esp. around Lake Lovelywater, I really question whether a facility of that size should be built.

It might be that 20 is the minimum size necessary to provide adequate funds for maintenance. That I don't know. It's just that information has not be forthcoming from the ACC on an issue that will profoundly impact the entire climbing community in Tantalus park."

Liz Scremin, of the Vancouver section of the ACC received a copy of Paul's letter. She responded as follows:

"The ACC and the Jim Haberl Memorial Trust Fund Group are working together on this, as a replacement for the Red Tit Hut. We first met in May of 2001 to assess our common goals. We have now established a formal partnership, and have formed a committee to fund-raise, design, build and promote the hut. A small group went up to visit and assess the site in August. Since September, the Committee

has met 3 times to figure out the process, assign roles and discuss basic issues such as the hut's purpose and size, plus locked versus unlocked. The real design work will start in January. We expect to build/assemble the hut in the summer of 2003.

I want to assure you that we intend to build a hut that is appropriate for the area in all respects. We are carefully reviewing any and all potential user groups and contacting them to ask for input. This includes local guides, schools (such as CWMS), search and rescue groups and clubs. I believe that one member of our committee is preparing a questionnaire to send out soon. I will ensure that it is sent to David Hughes for the BCMC. We want to make this process as inclusive and open as possible. While our JH Hut committee is small in size for holding meetings and making final decisions, we also intend to have an Advisory Group that can include anyone who wishes to get involved. If you wish to be included in the Advisory Group and receive announcements and notices about meetings, please check our website at www.jimhaberlfund.org and sign up for the mailing list.

Regarding hut access...

Yes. People will undoubtedly continue to access the area via helicopter. The vast majority of people have been doing this for some years, as the flight is so short and very cost effective. It is true that a new hut will attract more visitors, at least initially. Our committee is not insensitive to the air access issue. I did attend a number of the Tantalus Prov. Park Management Planning meetings along with Peter Woodsworth and Monika Bittel. It is hard to predict to what extent the number of flights will change, but if they do increase significantly, we can certainly ask BC Parks to require that the helicopter companies deliver people to and from the Dione-Serratus Col in a direct path. There is no reason why they should go over Lake Lovely Water or buzz mountain tops. I'd be happy to hear any ideas you might have to minimize the disturbance. As a part of this project, we plan to discuss improving the trail/route from Lake Lovely Water to the new hut

location with BC Parks, with the aim of making it easier and safer for people to access the new hut on foot.

Regarding the hut size...

The hut size is still up in the air. No decision has been made. We are talking to lots of people, climbers who use the area frequently, guides who bring clients, search and rescue groups who do training, asking for input. The size that people are suggesting ranges between 6 and 20. The midrange at 10-12 is most likely, but we shall see."

CONSERVATION NEWS

The new B.C. government is about to start its onslaught on our remaining wilderness areas. The vision emanating from the dollar-signed eyes in Victoria's ivory towers is an ocean of clearcuts and mines surrounding islands of mountains crawling with snowmobiles, helicopters, ATV's and people whose knowledge of wilderness is equal to their knowledge of another galaxy in our universe.

Two examples are given below.

1. Lillooet LRMP - Liberal government's decision "stinks" according to Vancouver environmental representatives on the LRMP.

Doug Radies reports on the government's decision released on 15 November -

"The decision:

- scraps the previous favourable phase 1 decision for Lillooet.
- the timeframe for completion of Lillooet LRMP is March 2002.
- the Table will not be reconvened; interest groups will only be consulted.
- a government team (Interagency Management Committee IAMC and Process Support Team PST) has been asked to draft a plan that finds a "balance" between the 2 offers that went to government last

April.

- if table interest groups don't agree with this new draft plan then the IAMC will make recommendations to cabinet.
- although this decision upholds the South Chilcotin OIC, there is a weasel clause in the backgrounder that allows for amendments to S. Chilcotin Park.
- everything gained in the April announcement is now up for grabs: protected areas, short/long term deferrals, resource management zones, grizzly bear recovery, spotted owl management, riparian protection, ecosystem based planning etc...

The government backgrounder states: "The [NDP] announcement appeared to accept only certain parts of the option chosen [last spring]." This is not true - the government accepted the CRTC offer in its entirety.

The backgrounder also states that a socio-economic analysis was not done by the NDP to govern their phase 1 decision. The fact is, the table understood that a detailed socio-economic analysis would be conducted at the end of phase 2 not phase 1 - and that only 'thumbnail' risk assessments would guide the NDP's phase 1 decision.

However, the Libs used the argument that the NDP decision was made in the absence of a detailed socio-economic analysis. They said that their review would be based on a detailed socio-economic analysis. The backgrounder states that: "the analysis shows relatively minor economic, social and environmental differences between the two [offers]". Given this, clearly the Libs decision was based on politics and not the facts and information which speak to upholding the former decision."

Since the above was written, a new logging road up Bonanza Ck. has been discovered. Ainsworth has started logging near its end, a few km from Spruce Lake. The environment/recreation group have threatened to pull out of the Lillooet LRMP process unless logging stops."

2. Goat River trail logged

Roy Howard, of the Fraser Headwaters Alliance, writes

Background

In October, 2001, the Silva Forest Foundation released a comprehensive report on the Fraser Headwaters region - The Fraser Headwaters Conservation Plan - which proposes full protection of the upper Goat watershed as an essential part of a biodiversity connectivity corridor between Bowron Lake and Kakwa Provincial Parks. CD copies of the report can be obtained from the Fraser Headwaters Alliance contact listed below (select items and maps can be emailed).

... In a listing of BC's most endangered rivers of 2000, the Outdoor Recreation Council stated, "Proposals for extensive logging in key headwater areas [of the Fraser River] is also cause for concern. The Goat drainage provides one of the few corridors for animal movement through the Cariboo Mountains into the Fraser River drainage."

... The Goat watershed was first nominated for protection over a decade ago. More recently, it was recommended for protection by nearly half of the sectors participating in the Robson Valley Land and Resource Management Planning process (LRMP). Consensus was never achieved with regard to industrial development in the upper Goat. However, in 1999, the NDP Cabinet bowed to industry pressure and announced that the upper Goat would be logged.

... A partial list of wildlife using the upper Goat watershed includes grizzly and black bears, wolves, wolverines, fishers, endangered mountain caribou moose, mountain goats, and harlequin ducks. In addition to spawning Chinook salmon, bull trout and even the occasional endangered white sturgeon also inhabit the threatened river.

... The partially protected lower Goat contains several clearcuts, as well as stands of magnificent ancient cedar forest, while the pristine but completely unprotected upper Goat has old growth spruce and subalpine fir forest.

Trail

... The Goat River Trail was first cut in 1886 by a

crew answering to John Bowron, Gold Commissioner of the Cariboo, and was very likely a First Nations route prior to that. Between 1886 and 1913, the trail was well used by miners and packers to transport supplies between McBride and the Cariboo goldfields. Once the railroad was completed in 1914, the trail saw less frequent use, although miners were prospecting significant claims in the valley as late as the 1930s.

... The Archaeology Branch of the BC government has stated that the Goat River Trail is "the only heritage trail of any kind that we are presently aware of in the Robson Valley Forest District", and recommended to the district manager that he "give some consideration for recognizing its heritage value."

... The LRMP reached consensus on the trail with wording that, "Development plans must manage for the historic Goat River trail."

... In 1998, the Fraser Headwaters Alliance assumed responsibility for the trail and has completely restored the portion that had not then been logged: 33 kilometers of trail, from the confluence of the Goat and Milk Rivers all the way to Bowron Lake Provincial Park. This involved locating the route of the original trail, blazing it with permanent metal markers, and clearing away decades of accumulated deadfall and undergrowth. A cable car was installed where the trail crosses the Goat River, although a number of other streams must still be forded.

... New trail has now been added to create a 95 kilometre continuous path between Bowron Lake and Crescent Spur on the upper Fraser. The Goat River Trail has since been adopted by the Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia and the National Trail Association of Canada as an integral link in the Sentier National Trail (not to be confused with the TransCanada Trail) that will eventually serve pedestrian traffic from the East Coast of Canada through to Bella Coola and down the length of Vancouver Island. Other BC sections of the Sentier National Trail include the Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail and the 1861 Goldrush Pack Trail.

Goat River Destruction Begins

In one short week, McBride Forest Industries (MFI) destroyed a kilometre of century-old historic trail by building a logging road on top of it. How long will it take to complete the destruction?

MFI started road-building in the wilderness of the upper Goat River watershed in November, 2001, despite serious concerns over the impact development will have on the area's unique environmental and recreational values. Logging in the first block could begin any day now.

The LRMP states, "Development plans must manage for the historic Goat River trail." But there is also a statement that occurs in the LRMP that says, "Should development activities occur near or over identified hiking trails, the trail condition and quality of access must be maintained or relocate the trail if necessary." MOF is attempting to use the latter strategy as something that can replace the former. Our argument is that the second is a generic statement that occurs repeatedly throughout the LRMP, but only the historic Goat River Trail received its own mention. Also, how do you move a historic trail? The Forest Practices Board seems to be buying the MOF argument.

The LRMP has not yet been declared a "higher level plan", which is repeatedly pointed out by the licensee.

Development past this point is required to have joint sign off with Ministry of Environment official, per LRMP.

Approx 200 m. past the current end of road, the road will enter the river, requiring DFO sign off. The current plan is for about 300 m of road to infill river and another 300 m to be within the riparian buffer zone.

DFO has indicated willingness to sign off in return for downstream habitat being constructed: reconnecting an isolated side channel with main stem to provide rearing habitat. The DFO HAD (permission for Habitat Alteration or Destruction) should automatically kick in a Canadian Environmental

Impact Assessment process. They haven't actually made a deal yet.

The Goat is an S-1 stream per FPC, requiring a 50 m reserve and a 20 m special management zone. The FPB report is expected soon. It is not expected to contest the proposed road location, only state that the DM did not use the right tests for "conserving the forest resource".

The Goat contains redlisted mountain caribou, fisher, wolverine. Sturgeon (also redlisted) are found occasionally in the lower Goat. Chinook salmon spawning and resident blue listed bull trout also occur.

Located west of McBride, BC, the Goat River watershed has for many years been the target of a protection campaign led by the Fraser Headwaters Alliance, a conservation organization based in the Robson Valley. At 35,000 hectares, the upper Goat is the second largest undeveloped, unprotected watershed in the Fraser Headwaters region and provides critical habitat for grizzly bears, Chinook salmon and endangered mountain caribou. The waters of the upper Goat flow crystal clear year-round and majestic stands of old growth spruce forest stretch to the horizon.

MFI's development plan for this area is in flagrant violation of the Forest Practices Code, and is currently under investigation by the BC Forest Practices Board. If pushed further into the watershed, the road will be built directly on the bank of the river for 300 metres, seriously damaging Chinook salmon and bull trout rearing and spawning grounds. However, government staff from the BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Ministry of Forests, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada are expected to approve the road in the interest of allowing logging access to this controversial area.

The road and subsequent logging will also obliterate much of what remains of the Historic Goat River Trail, established in 1886 between Barkerville and the Fraser River during the latter part of the Cariboo Gold Rush. Recently restored as a 95-

kilometre hiking trail stretching from Crescent Spur to Bowron Lake Provincial Park, the stunning mountain vistas and pristine wilderness it traverses put the Goat River Trail on par with the West Coast Trail as one of BC's premier recreation destinations.

If development continues in the upper Goat, we will lose an irreplaceable piece of our province's natural and cultural heritage. The potential of the area for sensitive ecotourism and habitat for endangered wildlife will be written off in favour of short-term economic gains. "We're spending our children's inheritance," says Fraser Headwaters Alliance Coordinator, Roy Howard, "and in my mind, that is a great mistake."

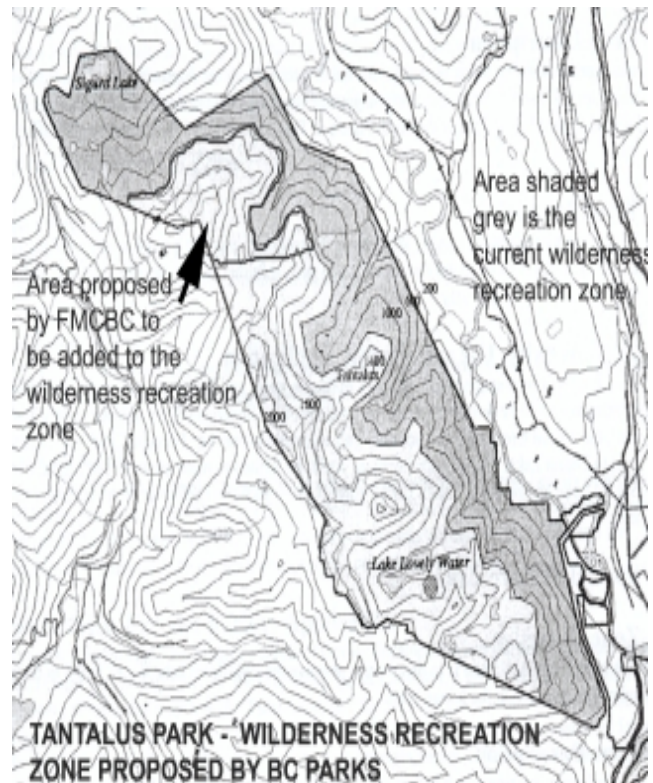
The Fraser Headwaters Alliance is calling for a moratorium on any further development in the upper Goat River to allow time for concerns over Forest Practices Code violations, fish and wildlife habitat, First Nations land claims, and preservation of the trail and its surroundings to be addressed and resolved. For more information on the fight to save the upper Goat River watershed, contact the Fraser Headwaters Alliance at (250) 968-4490 or by email at roy@fraserheadwaters.org. Visit their website at www.savethegoat.ca

Tantalus Park Management Plan - Your input is required.

Those members of the climbing community who attended the open houses in November for the draft Tantalus management plan made a good impression on B.C. Parks. Their presence demonstrated the importance of the Tantalus area to mountaineering. Also, they gave thoughtful and rational input. Thank you to all who attended the open houses.

For those who were unable to attend and for those who have not yet given written input on the draft Management Plan, Parks is accepting public input

until **January 31, 2001**. There is a good chance that we can get Parks to reconsider the zoning proposed for Tantalus Park, if they receive more public input in support of it. Members of the mountaineering community are urged to write a letter or send an e-mail to B.C. Parks, commenting on the draft Management Plan. Parks is looking for thoughtful, rational input. So, if you support any of the points being advocated by the FMCBC as outlined below, give your reasons.



The proposed zoning for Tantalus park.

Some specific concerns or amendments advocated by the FMCBC are as follows:

1. The Lake Lovely Water basin and the alpine areas of Tantalus Provincial Park are zoned "Natural Environment", which permits mechanized access. A smaller committee will be starting work in February or March 2002 to develop an aviation management plan for Tantalus Park. Air access is recognized as a valid activity within Tantalus Park, but it is also recognized that there is a need to control its impacts on the Park and other users. Any comments or concerns regarding aircraft use in the Lake Lovely Water basin and the Park generally should therefore be directed to Parks. These comments and concerns will be available to the Aviation Management Plan Committee and will be valuable input in developing the aviation management plan. The Committee will consider such issues as landing sites, number of commercial permits to be issued, use patterns, and safety concerns. Representatives of the FMCBC will be participating on this Committee, so input, comments and concerns regarding aviation in the Park are invited.

2. The non-alpine areas of the Park and the area around Sigurd Lake are zoned "Wilderness Recreation", meaning non-mechanized recreation and access. The proposed zone is too small and does not adequately protect the Sigurd area for wilderness recreation. At a minimum we would like to see the Wilderness Recreation Zone enlarged to include Mt. Ossa and Mt. Pelion. This would be accomplished by extending the Wilderness Recreation Zone boundary up from Zenith Lake through the col, which separates Mt. Pelion from the north ridge of Tantalus, and then continuing along the park boundary (see figure). By enlarging the Wilderness Recreation Zone to include Mt. Pelion and Mt. Ossa, there will be at least two significant peaks in the Park where a wilderness mountaineering experience can be enjoyed. As currently zoned, there is not a single significant peak in the entire Park which permits a wilderness mountaineering experience. Mt. Pelion and Mt. Ossa also form a natural sound barrier, protecting the Sigurd area

from the air activity over Tantalus and the Rumbling Glacier.

3. Hunting should not be allowed in the Park. The draft Management Plan report states that hunting should occur as long as wildlife populations are not "impacted to unacceptable levels". What is an "unacceptable level"? Does Parks have any data on wildlife populations in the Park? Parks should have data on wildlife populations before letting the wildlife to be wiped out through ignorance. Since hunting can occur everywhere else around the Park, there is no justification for hunting in the Park. There has been no demonstrations of public support for hunting in the park. Recent public opinion surveys suggest the opposite.

The tourism sector is placing great pressure on Parks for development of Tantalus Park, primarily through mechanized access and recreation and flight seeing. Ensure Parks also hears from the climbing community. If you agree or disagree with some or all of the proposed Management Plan, say so and say why. Letters and comments should be directed to Tom Bell, B.C. Parks, Garibaldi/Squamish Coast District, PO Box 220, Brackendale, B.C. V0N 1H0. Telephone number is 604-898-3678 (Ext. 232), fax number is 604-898-4171, and e-mail address is Tom.Bell@gems1.gov.bc.ca.

If you have any questions contact Peter Woodsworth (Tel. No. 604-254-7076) or Monika Bittel (Tel. No. 604-983-3097 or e-mail monikabittel@mybc.com) who are representing the FMCBC at the Management Plan Committee meetings.

Your support is needed and appreciated.

TRIP REPORTS

Needle Peak, 8 September, 2001

If you want to feel popular, put yourself on the BCMC schedule to organize a relatively easy hike in September. Based on my experience this fall, the phone will ring right up to 11 p.m. the night before the hike! Aside from the fact that my daughter got tired of answering lots of the calls, it was fun to be able to encourage novice hikers to come on a trip that turned out to be an almost ideal first hike.

My major pre-trip concern was how to keep the group size to a reasonable level. In the case of Needle Peak, I accepted all who called (20) and ended up with 13 who actually appeared at Wendy's on Saturday. Interestingly, half of these were non-club members. This was a great mix, as the club members helped the newcomers over some of the (few) places where a little rock-climbing was required (especially if you miss the established route up!)

In the end, 12 of us enjoyed our second lunch on the top. The sun couldn't make up completely for the wind chill, so we didn't tarry long. We found the established route down, thus making a nice circle route although Brian descended our up-route in order to retrieve a pair of walking poles left at a particularly bushy part of the well-worn alternative route.

The blueberries were magnificent so a number of us tarried on the way down, enjoying good views and a tasty post-lunch snack. In spite of the leisurely descent, all were down at the cars by 3:30 p.m. Even with a stop in Hope for ice cream, we were still back in Vancouver in time for dinner.

I highly recommend this hike as an introduction to mountain travel. Several of this group had never been in the mountains before, and commented on how much they enjoyed the experience - the relatively steep but short trail up to the lower ridge, the walk along the ridge, and the short bits of rock scrambling near the top.

Participants: Janet Alred, Donna Bailey, Silvan Beeler, Ron Burke, Lesli Cowan, Michael Fuhrmann, Rhys Gibb, Andrea Heal, Murray Lashmar, Anne O'Neil, Peter Woodsworth, Brian Ellis, and Margaret Ellis (organizer and reporter).

West Lion (Binkert Trail), 16 September, 2001

When we met at St. David's Church parking lot at 7 am, the weather didn't look very promising, but it wasn't raining so we were all still game for the trip. Our group was surprisingly quite small at only 5 people. Although we had 3 veterans in the group, only the organizer, Peter Parrotta, had previously made the trip up the Lions. I had been looking forward to this trip for a long time, so even the looming cloud cover couldn't deter my excitement.

We all piled into Peter's red pickup and headed to Lion's Bay. The 7 am start was worth it as we managed to get a parking spot right at the trailhead and were hiking before 8 am.

After a short while on the logging road, we emerged above the cloud cover and the forest opened up to reveal Unnecessary Mountain. The view was complemented by blue skies and a blanket of fluffy white clouds surrounding Bowen and Gambier Islands in Howe Sound.



Backside of the West Lion. Photo - N. Ducharme

Just before we reached Harvey Creek, we paused by a sign noting BCMC's role on this trail. Binkert Trail is one of BCMC's adopted trails in the FMCBC's Adopt-A-Trail program. We talked about Paul Binkert and other mountain pioneers as we ascended through the red cedars and Douglas-fir. Just this summer, Paul Binkert was fittingly remembered when Geographic Data BC announced that a mountain (2984 m) in the Lillooet Icefields region had been officially named Mount Binkert.

After a long push through the trees we reached a viewpoint where we could see Mount Harvey and more importantly, a very nice view of the backside of the West Lion. We stopped to snack here and chatted with other hikers enjoying the great views and superb September weather.

We carried on up the meadows and boulders, taking the gradual route up to the ridge which marks the junction of the Howe Sound Crest Trail. We would later skip this route in favour of the "Elevator" on our way down. As we continued on through the boulders and trees on the ridge, I was blown away



East Lion. Photo - N. Ducharme

at the closeness of the East Lion when it suddenly loomed into view. I couldn't wait to scramble up the West Lion now. A few minutes later we were at the saddle right in front of the West Lion. I was stoked.

Peter Woodsworth had gone ahead at the ridge and was already making his way up the West Lion. Ben and Michelle opted for lunch at the base of the West Lion. Peter P. and I dropped into the saddle using the BCMC-supplied fixed rope. We both noted that the knotted rope still looked brand-new.

We traversed across the base of the West Lion and I went on ahead of Peter P. after squeezing up through a steep section of trees. After a few minutes of scrambling, I joined Peter W. on the top. I was jubilant as I had wanted this peak for a long time. Peter W., in contrast, arrived at the top well before me and was enjoying a nice nap in the warm sunshine. After drinking in all the views from every aspect, I also took a little catnap on the peak.

Because of the unusually warm weather, there was a fair amount of traffic on the trail. There was about a dozen other people on the peak during the half hour we were on top. Amongst them were four very-dehydrated, ill-equipped, young men who had hiked the Howe Sound Crest trail to get there. There was also a young girl with no gear and loafers making her way to the top.

Peter W. and I took an easier route on the way down and within a few minutes we hauled ourselves out of the saddle and joined the rest of the group. On the descent we saved some time by taking the "Elevator" as opposed to the ridge we took on the way up. We had two stops on the way down. One at the viewpoint, where Peter W. proceeded ahead and one stop at Harvey Creek.

While the others took a rest and water break, I soaked my right foot in Harvey Creek, which I'm sure would have been much more comfortable had I removed my boot first.



On the trail below Unnecessary Mtn. Photo - N. Ducharme.

I proceeded ahead of the group from Harvey Creek and enjoyed some solitude for the remaining easy section to the trailhead. At the trailhead I found Peter W. once again enjoying sweet slumber as he rested in the box of Peter P.'s truck. The rest of the group arrived shortly after and we headed to Trolls' pub in Horseshoe Bay for some Kilkenny, grub and conversation.

We had a good group, great weather and no problems. It was interesting to note, though, how much of our conversations all day centered around the catastrophic events of September 11th. As the terrible tragedy in the US had taken place only five days prior to this hike, the impact of its effects were still very fresh in our minds. No matter how beautiful and serene this hike was, it was something we still could not forget.

Participants: Peter Woodsworth, Ben Wiens, Michelle Ewers, Peter Parrotta (Organizer) and Nikki Ducharme (Reporter)

Pokosha Ck., 3 November, 2001

Pokosha Creek road may be the shortest access route to Sigurd Lake and Mount Jimmy Jimmy. Club members have previously expressed interest in a summer route to Mount Jimmy Jimmy. Prior to the road being cleared it was a formidable bushwhack except when deep snow covered the road. Marten Ck road is an alternative approach to Mt Jimmy Jimmy but it was overgrown as well. I haven't been up it recently to verify its condition although Interfor may have cleared some or all of Marten Ck road with a bulldozer this year.

Pokosha is also a reasonable ski trip for intermediate level skiers to access Jimmy Jimmy or the headwaters of Sigurd Creek. It starts higher than the Sigurd trail and is not as steep at the start.

BCMC volunteers have worked over the last three years clearing the higher sections of A-640 leading to about 800 m elevation in Pokosha Ck. A path through the alder has been cleared right to the end of the road where it ends at slide path that typically runs in springtime on a south-facing slope.

A Tantalus Park Master Plan is being developed and Pokosha Ck is being looked at as a possible access route to Sigurd Lake. So we're a bit ahead of the game.

On this trip we cleared the last 700 m of road with the seven participants. I'd also like to add that a couple of non-scheduled trips occurred earlier this year when I was assisted by Karin Rolfes-Kubik and Andrew Wong on separate occasions.

Trip participants: Rob Kay, Ziff House, Andrew Wong, Jos Van der Burg, and Paul Kubik. (Organizer and reporter).